

Tax Prep Assistance Information

Free Tax Return Preparation For You by Volunteers

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify.

Trained community volunteers may help with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, most sites also offer free electronic filing (e-filing). Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – even faster when tax refunds are deposited directly into one's bank account.

For more information, visit the IRS website .

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$49,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing. To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-829-1040.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program provides free tax help to people aged 60 and older. Trained volunteers from non-profit organizations provide free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation for senior citizens. Volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

For more information on TCE, call 1-800-829-1040 or visit the IRS website .

Military personnel and their families get free tax help!

The Department of Defense's Military OneSource provides free tax preparation software and access to tax consultants by phone seven days a week from 7 am - 11 pm ET. For more information, call the Military OneSource Tax Hotline at 1-800-730-3802 or visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com> .

The military also has a strong Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, which provides free tax preparation assistance at offices within your installations.. The Armed Forces Tax Council (AFTC) consists of the tax program coordinators for the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The AFTC oversees the operation of the military tax programs worldwide, and serves as the main conduit for outreach by the IRS to military personnel and their families.

Airmen, soldiers, sailors, marines, guardsmen, and their families worldwide receive free tax preparation assistance at offices within their installations. These VITA sites provide free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families. They are trained and equipped to address military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of the new Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) guidelines.

How do I file my taxes for free?

If your household made less than \$57,000 last year, you may qualify for the Free File program, which provides free federal income tax preparation and electronic filing for eligible taxpayers.

With all Free File options you can:

- File your taxes any hour of the day or night.
- Know that your return is safe and secure.
- Receive a quick IRS confirmation, within 48 hours, that your return was received.
- Get your refund in as few as 10 days with Direct Deposit.
- File a free federal extension.

For information about which companies provide this service, please visit <http://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/> .